

# VIETNAM COURIER

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E.O. : 48 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

UP TO FEBRUARY 12, 1968

**2,753** U.S. Planes  
BROUGHT DOWN IN D.R.V.N.

★

SOUTH Vietnam



## SAIGON, CHOLON, HUE: People's Forces Hold Many Town Districts and Precincts.

- \* A U.S. Battalion and a U.S. Armoured Company Wiped Out at Bau Bang (50 Km North of Saigon).
- \* N.F.L. Declares Support to "Alliance of National Forces for Independence and Peace".
- \* Breaking Up of Puppet Armed Forces and Administration Continues at Quick Tempo.
- \* South Viet Nam People's General Offensive Wins Worldwide Applause.

### EDITORIAL

A revolutionary storm is raging over South Viet Nam. A determined, prolonged offensive has shaken the American and puppet structure down to its foundation. The enemy has been driven into an impasse. A new stage of revolutionary onslaught has begun.

Unprecedented success of great military and political significance have

been achieved in all fields.

Never has the history of the Vietnamese people's struggle against foreign aggression known such a powerful offensive, one that shows such a big scope, such good co-ordination, and such varied aspects. Worth noticing is the fact that the enemy's representative apparatus in enemy-occupied towns and areas—one soldier for

every four inhabitants—has not been annihilated. The revolutionary armed forces and people have attacked cities, airfields, military bases, and achieved great victories within a very short time. They have occupied important regions in the large cities of Saigon, Cholon, Hue, encircled and threatened Da Nang, won control over scores of towns and townlets. The capture of Lang Vay, an American military outpost in the region of Khe Sanh, has thrown the American Command into consternation.

After the first six days of fighting, more enemy regiments and battalions have been annihilated than during the five months of the winter 1965-spring 1966 campaign. Within six days, one-fifth of enemy effectiveness in South Viet Nam has been destroyed.

One knows the great importance attached by the American, satellite and puppet troops to modern war material, fire power and logistical support without which no military operation of any scope could be launched by them. In six days, within six days, 1,500 planes and helicopters, one-third of the air force operating in Viet Nam, and 4,000 military vehicles have been destroyed or damaged. More than one million of tons of bombs and ammunition has been captured or have gone up in smoke.

(Continued page 7)



▲ P.L.A.F. mortar in action

# WORLD'S PEOPLE ELATED BY SOUTH VIET NAM MILITARY EXPLOITS

THE resounding victories recorded in the early days of Spring by the Liberation Armed Forces and other patriots in South Viet Nam have deeply impressed world press opinion and inspired the people of various countries to support the struggle with the Vietnamese people's just struggle and wholehearted support and assist Viet Nam in its fight against U.S. imperialists.

**Warm Congratulations from the U.S.S.R., the P.R. of China and Other Socialist Countries**

In an interview with Nguyen Tho Chan, Ambassador Extraordinary and the

Minister of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to the Soviet Union, A.M. Kozyn, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. on February 5, he said: "The South Vietnamese people fight very bravely and score tremendous victories. The entire Soviet people are deeply impressed by the splendid victories won by the South Vietnamese people in their fight against U.S. aggressors. They greatly support the Vietnamese people's just struggle. The brilliant victories of the South Vietnamese people have just won most brilliant victories by launching simultaneous attacks with the momentum of an avalanche on more than 50 cities and towns in areas temporarily occupied by the enemy, including such

big cities, provincial capitals and military strongholds as Saigon, Da Nang and Hué. These happy tidings will bring great joy and enthusiasm."

"These victories indicate that the South Vietnamese people's war against U.S. aggressors and native traitors has reached a new and higher level of development. They have once more proved that the South Vietnamese people's war against U.S. aggressors is a just struggle. The brilliant victories of the South Vietnamese people have just won most

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In the North Viet Nam Press

## DETERMINATION OF THE BIG REAR TO FULFIL ITS OBLIGATION TOWARD THE BIG FRONTLINE

THE brilliant victories scored by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people over the last few days have aroused a great enthusiasm among all sections of the South Vietnamese people.

After the meeting of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, various political parties and mass organizations in the South Viet Nam held extraordinary sessions during which they issued statements or messages to the South Viet Nam people and their compatriots and their counterparts affiliated to it, greeting the military exploits there.

All over North Viet Nam in military units, in the rear areas, in the front lines, in the fighting, house-guard units, agricultural and handicraft co-operatives, factories, construction sites, forest exploitation sites, shape and form units, in the rear areas, meetings have been held at which the participants approved resolutions and letters promising to improve their work, to fight harder and serve the armyman, thus fulfilling the obligation of the big rear base toward the big front line.

The big front in North Viet Nam have run a series of issues with reports on the glorious victories of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people and the stirring atmosphere prevailing all over North Viet Nam.

*Nam Dan*, central organ of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, on February 7 wrote:

"... The big defeat sustained by the U.S. aggressors in the South Viet Nam has been illustrated not only by their heavy losses in military strength. Their utter surprise, panic and confusion to the point of panic, their bitter strategical and tactical failure. The aggressors are completely at a loss as to the intention, forces and capabilities of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people."

"... The concerted uprising of millions of people has dealt a telling blow at the U.S. aggressors. The first blow has been given battle right in their refuge. Our people's anti-U.S. front has been formed inside that very atmosphere. The disposition of enemy forces is uprooted and not strong hold is on the verge of collapse."

"... Big victories have been recorded in both parts of our country. The general offensive of the South Vietnamese people is stimulating us... Let us fulfil to the best our obligation as the big rear base toward the big front line. Let us make to the highest degree our maximum and maximum efforts to meet in time and fully the requirements of the big frontline. Everybody in the rear areas must do their best in production and any other work so as to be up to the achievements of the frontline

and our glorious historical task, thus making the best contributions to the complete liberation of the country."

*Nam Dan*, organ of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, wrote on February 4:

"... We are overjoyed, proud, optimistic and firmly convinced in the invincible strength of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people.

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## SOUTH VIET NAM N.F.L. MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

PRESIDENT Ho Chi Minh has received a message from the President of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

The message released by *Giai Phong* Press Agency was signed by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Thu, President of the President of the Front C.C.

The message said that President Ho Chi Minh's hearty congratulations and encouragement to the people, People's Liberation Armed Forces and all other patriotic forces in South Viet Nam on their recent victories, are a great honour to the South Vietnamese armed forces and people.

The message went on:

"For nearly a decade now, united millions of one man in the South Viet Nam have been fighting the U.S. aggressors.

Vietnamese people have overcome innumerable difficulties and hardships, frustrated all plans of aggression of the U.S. imperialists.

The message said that

"At present the U.S. aggressors are suffering heavy defeats. They are in utter bewilderment and confusion. However aggressive and bellicose by nature in their

victories. The stormy and widespread attacks launched by the South Viet Nam revolutionary armed forces and people have weighed upon the U.S. aggressors as a nightmare. Nothing can save the U.S. imperialists from total defeat, and the puppet administration and army from complete collapse and disintegration. Glorious victories are awaiting the people in South Viet Nam.

The great and allied victories recorded by the South Vietnamese people are closely linked with the wholehearted assistance of their 17 million kith-and-kin in North Viet Nam. The daily calls given to South Viet Nam by the people, the great masses of our entire Vietnamese people, as well as the valuable support and assistance of the fraternal and friendly countries all over the world.

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(Continued from page 2)

struggle against the U.S. imperialists.

Liberation Armed Forces in the past week is nothing short of a series of glorious victories. We do everything to contribute to the final victory of the Vietnamese people.

Lai Loi, Secretary General of the Communist Party of Italy, on February 3, declared: "The courageous achievements of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people's victories deeply inspire the European people as well as the progressive people the world over. They have demonstrated the U.S. ruling circles' claims of their omnipotence and aggression, but also for the anti-imperialist struggle of the people of all countries in the world."

Ernest Hoxha, First Secretary of the Albanian Party of Labour Central Committee, Rashi Lleshi, President of the National Assembly, and Mikaili Lleshi, Chairman of the Albanian Council of Ministers, on February 4, in a message to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Thu, Foreign Minister of the Hungarian People's Republic, expressed their congratulations to the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, on Feb. 4, 1972, stated: "The South Vietnamese armed forces and people's victories deeply inspire the European people as well as the progressive people the world over. They have demonstrated the U.S. ruling circles' claims of their omnipotence and aggression, but also for the anti-imperialist struggle of the people of all countries in the world."

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Also on February 3, in Vienna the Central Committee of the Austrian Communist Party issued a statement which welcomed the South Vietnamese revolutionaries.

"The glorious victories won by the South Vietnamese revolutionaries are a tremendous encouragement to the fraternal Vietnamese people, the Hungarian people and the progressive people the world over. They have demonstrated the U.S. ruling circles' claims of their omnipotence and aggression, but also for the anti-imperialist struggle of the people of all countries in the world."

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## Message of "Front of Alliance for National Independence, Democracy and Peace" in Hue to American People

*Giai Phong* Press Agency has just released a message dated Feb. 10 of the "Front of Alliance for National Independence, Democracy and Peace" in Hue to the American people.

After informing the American people of the South Vietnamese people's recent uprising to overthrow the Thieu-Ky puppet administration and demanding the U.S. war of aggression and the U.S. aggressors, the message said: "This destructive war has caused untold suffering and mourning not only to the Vietnamese people but also to the American people."

Tens of thousands of American youths have died an unjust cause. Tens of thousands of American mothers and wives have lost their dear ones. Tens of thousands of American children are fatherless and have no one to support them.

"Should such tragedy be allowed to continue ? Should the U.S. government be allowed to continue to act contrary to and betray the fine principles laid down in the Declaration of Independence of the United States ?"

"We sincerely thank you, American people, who, in the interests of the U.S. and Viet Nam, have, by various means, opposed the U.S. policy in Viet Nam."

The message went on, "Determined to overthrow the Thieu-Ky puppet administration, the 'Front of Alliance for National Independence, Democracy and Peace' in Hue, issued an urgent statement demanding that the U.S. government and the war bring U.S. troops home, rapidly withdraw all its troops from Viet Nam, and allow the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs without foreign interference. This is the best and most correct way to contribute to the interests of our people. This is also the only way to end the U.S. war in Viet Nam."

The message went on, "Determined to defend the people's rights, the people's freedom and dignity, the people's right to live and work, the people's right to fight with us for the sake of the U.S. people, the people's right to live and work in peace, freedom and happiness; the heavy war burden now weighing on the American people will thus be removed. The American youth saved from useless death in Viet Nam."

"Confident of the American people's tradition of defending their country, the people of the U.S. call on you to fight with us to the end for the sake of the U.S. people, the people of both countries, and to demand that the U.S. government and the war bring U.S. troops home, rapidly withdraw all its troops from Viet Nam, and allow the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs without foreign interference. This is the best and most correct way to contribute to the interests of our people. This is also the only way to end the U.S. war in Viet Nam."

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# P.L.A.F. AND REVOLUTIONARY FORCES ATTACK VICTORIOUSLY IN ALL THEATRES OF OPERATIONS

**SAIGON:** Revolutionary Forces Hold 3 Districts and Continue Their Attacks in Other Districts.

**HUE:** The City Held by the People — 1 Battalion, 1 Convoy of 15 Vehicles, 1 Company and 400 Enemy Soldiers, Including 300 Yankees, Wiped Out on Feb. 7, 8 and 9.

**GIA DINH:** 2 Puppet Battalions Put out of Action at the Gates of Saigon on Feb. 6.

**THU DAU MOT:** 1 Battalion of U.S. First Infantry Division Wiped Out at Bau Bang, 50km North of Saigon (Feb. 8).

**I**n Saigon, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported that the general offensive and simultaneous uprisings which took place since the night of Jan. 30, 1968 throughout South Viet Nam, by the revolutionary forces and people of Saigon attacked the enemy unrelentingly, fought off all his counter-attacks and continued to control the districts they had seized.

On Feb. 2, the revolutionary forces attacked the enemy on two bridges near Phu Tho race-course, southwest of the city, wiping out one a plateau, destroying one armoured car and capturing vehicles and capturing many enemy soldiers. Another column of the revolutionary army, formed as an enemy post on Highway 5, put out to fight soldiers of other posts in the vicinity.

Thus Districts 6, 7 and 8, west of Saigon, from Phu Tho race-course to the Y-shaped bridge linking District 7 to Districts 4 and 8 were put under the control of the revolutionary forces.

The same day, areas in the southern part of District 4, from the Y-shaped bridge to the Saigon river banks, came under the control of the revolutionary forces. In this district, the enemy only held the areas along the river banks where warehouses were located. Furthermore, the revolutionary forces attacked the enemy in many streets in District 3, in the north of the city and in District 5, between Saigon and Cholon. 2 enemy companies trying to retreat in an area in District 6 were roundly beaten.

On Feb. 6, the revolutionary forces wiped out a U.S. company operating in District 5.

7, and inflicted heavy losses on another enemy column in District 5. After this serious setback, the enemy carried out dastardly retaliation on our districts by burning houses in the countryside. But the more savage the enemy, the deeper the hatred of the people. On that night, with the assistance of the revolutionary forces, the people of Saigon captured a post in District 7, defended by a company of puppet combat troops.

In close co-operation with the armed forces and

people of Saigon, on Feb. 8 and 9, the revolutionaries held under firm control the areas they had occupied in Gia Dinh province close to Saigon; they repelled an enemy counter-attack in a locality of Go Vap District, put out of action a unit of the enemy's "strategic reserves" composed of one battalion of Marines, one company of anti-aircraft troops and one armoured unit, destroyed 13 armoured cars, downed 1 aircraft, causing over a thousand

casualties among the enemy including over 600 puppet Marines.

On Feb. 6, at 8 p.m. the revolutionary forces won control of the Cai Chi towlet, junks northwest of Saigon, destroying the police HQ, a reconnaissance post, barracks of the special forces and the posts of the district chief. The enemy military training centre in this district was also attacked and was on fire for two hours.

In Hue city, on Feb. 7, the revolutionaries inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in four engagements. In the first one, a battalion of

(Continued page 7)



These guerrillas have just destroyed an enemy armoured car

## REVOLUTIONARY STORM VIOLENTLY SHAKES U.S. AGGRESSORS' LAST PROPS

**A**CCORDING to AFP (Feb. 7, 1968), on the eighth night of the general attack launched by the revolutionary armed forces in South Viet Nam, puppet Vice-President Nguyen Cao Ky acknowledged that under the districts in Saigon, 8 belonged to the "blue area" (area under control of the puppet army — Ed.) while 7 districts are "red" and 1 is under control of the revolutionary forces (Ed.). U.S. and puppet planes had to strike the very last seat of the regime. The smoke-screen of the U.S. and puppet machine of psychological warfare could not hide from world opinion two hard facts in South Viet Nam: a large scale people's uprising and the irreversable disintegration of the puppet army.

### A WIDESPREAD REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT

In Saigon, while attacking key positions of the U.S.-puppet war machine, the people rose to create the puppet administration in the districts, to arrest puppet agents and spies. People's courts sat on the spot to try those who had blood on their hands to pay to the people. With the help of the population which fought and supplied ammunition and food

to revolutionary troops, the latter were able to raid many places and rapidly liberate whole districts. The correspondent reported from Cho Lon that Buddhist monks donning grey robes shot at the "blue" and even young "blue-tilted" people for information for the "Viet Cong" (i.e. the revolutionary forces — Ed.). Reuter (Feb. 5, 1968) laid stress on the significant fact that the revolutionaries had the support of many Saigonese who joined them in the struggle for the just cause: the Viet Cong recruited many supporters in Saigon.

Such things also happened in the anti-American political centre in the North of South Viet Nam. Responding to an appeal from the Front of Alliance for National Independence, Democracy and Peace, the people stood up and encircled puppet offices and arrested puppet agents. In no time the machine of oppression was smashed. The N.F.D. flag fluttered over the citadel of the puppet regime. U.S. information agencies pointed out the presence of insurgent students and pupils, who had been fighting for years been struggling against the Saigon regime. *Giai Phong* Press Agency also reported that over 1,000 youth, students and pupils, had participated in the uprising on February 1, 2 and 3. AFP of

Feb. 7 related that after a night's fighting, go per cent of the people sided with the revolutionaries.

The revolutionary tide swept over 40 towns and provincial capitals and hundreds of district capitals and other townships, mostly of the 17th parallel, as far as Cao Bang. The tide, by the hundred thousand men and again came out and cut off communication and encircled enemy posts and military sectors. On Feb. 1, in the Binh Phuoc province, the "long-haired army" made up of women demonstrated before the post in Saigon, forced its garrison into a standstill, captured its ammunition depot and distributed its arms to the people. On Jan. 1, in My Tho province, the puppet administration in the besieged area of the provincial capital was overthrown, 7 posts or watchtowers wiped out.

The widespread uprising of the urban people which marks an unprecedented revolutionary tide has been speeding up the irresistible collapse of the puppet administration.

### BIG WAVES OF MUNITY

**A**CCORDING to foreign news agencies, men in puppet uniforms attacked the U.S. Embassy in

Saigon, helped by its own chauffeurs.

*Giai Phong* Press Agency reported that puppet military had rebels and participants in the attack on Saigon and joined the people to arrest spies and wicked things. In Bien Hoa, a number of officers of the 3rd Battalion (Regiment 16, Division 1) turned their guns on U.S. "advisors" and recalcitrant things, then crossed over to the side of the revolutionaries.

The "blue" in the provinces of Cao Lanh (Sa Dec), Due Hoa, Gia Goc (Long An) puppet officers and soldiers in the provinces of Binh Phuoc, Binh Dinh, Binh Thuan and other provinces raised many C.P.V. posts and offices. In other provinces, they sided with the population in overthrowing the puppet regime and in setting up the people's government. The garrisons of 10 posts in Rach Gia and 5 posts in Vinh Long (Mekong Delta) surrendered their weapons to the people and fought to the side. According to the Communists of the N.F.L. Armed Forces High Command during the first few days of the general offensive, 10,000 posts were repelled and went over to the revolutionary forces.

Remarkable is the fact that all the officers and soldiers of Battalion 3 (Regiment 33, Division 21) garrisoned at Soc

Trang city rose up, occupied the arsenal, distributed weapons to the people and joined the revolutionary forces in attacking many places in the town.

Many puppet soldiers took advantage of the general uprising to desert their units or to stay at home after the expiry of their term of the Lunar New Year Festival leaves.

The puppet army suffered a major crisis with the disappearance of 200,000 troops, the wiping out of 40,000 men, the attack and destruction of most of its key organizations.

**W**HILE the White House and the Thieu Ky clique tried to hide their bitter failure in South Viet Nam, Senator Mansfield remarked on Feb. 2 that the general attack and uprising of the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces was undoubtedly the Saigon government, and proved that Viet Cong were enjoying maximum support from the population.

In face of the revolutionary storm, the puppet army and administration, mainly supporters of Washington in its neo-colonialist war of aggression in South Viet Nam, are rapidly collapsing, which will precipitate the irremediable fiasco of the U.S. aggressors.